

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-20, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ball et al., U.S. Patent No.: 6,446,200, in view of Farhat et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication US2001/0034677. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such rejection.

Specifically, the invention in this application was conceived of and/or reduced to practice at least as early as February 16, 2000, which predates the effective date of the Farhat reference. See attached declaration and exhibit.

A notice of allowance or a proper prior art showing of each of the claimed features, in combination with the remaining claim elements, is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. For payment of the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. XACTP009).

Respectfully submitted,

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